

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3552

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Targeting Resources  
5 to Communities in Need Act of 2022”.

**6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1                             (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
3 gress” means—

4                             (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the  
5                             Committee on the Budget, the Committee on  
6                             Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and  
7                             the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
8                             ernmental Affairs of the Senate;

9                             (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the  
10                             Committee on the Budget, the Committee on  
11                             Energy and Commerce, the Committee on  
12                             Transportation and Infrastructure, and the  
13                             Committee on Oversight and Reform of the  
14                             House of Representatives; and

15                             (C) any other committee of Congress that  
16                             has jurisdiction over a department or agency  
17                             with a role developing or implementing meas-  
18                             ures under section 4(a).

19                             (2) AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY.—The term  
20                             “area of persistent poverty” means an area that is  
21                             a high-poverty census tract or a persistent poverty  
22                             county.

23                             (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
24                             the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-  
25                             et.

1                             (4) HIGH-POVERTY CENSUS TRACT.—The term  
2                             “high-poverty census tract” means a census tract  
3                             that has a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent  
4                             in the most recent American Community Survey 5-  
5                             year survey by the Bureau of the Census.

6                             (5) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.—The term  
7                             “persistent poverty county” means—

8                                 (A) a county, parish, or other equivalent  
9                             county division (as determined by the Bureau of  
10                             the Census) with a poverty rate of not less than  
11                             20 percent in the Small Area Income and Pov-  
12                             erty Estimates by the Bureau of the Census for  
13                             1997, 2007, 2017, and the most recent year for  
14                             which the estimates are available; or  
15                                 (B) any territory or possession of the  
16                             United States.

17                             **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF LIST OF AREAS OF PERSISTENT**  
18                             **POVERTY.**

19                             (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
20                             date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of the Census  
21                             shall publish a list of all areas of persistent poverty.

22                             (b) UPDATE.—The Bureau of the Census shall up-  
23                             date annually the list published under subsection (a).

1   **SEC. 4. INCREASING SHARE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO**  
2                   **AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY AND OTHER**  
3                   **HIGH-POVERTY AREAS.**

4       (a) **GUIDANCE AND MEASURES TO INCREASE FED-**  
5   **ERAL INVESTMENTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
6   date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation  
7   with Federal agencies, shall develop and implement guid-  
8   ance and measures to increase the share of Federal invest-  
9   ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty and other  
10   areas with high and persistent poverty (including any  
11   other areas that the Director, in consultation with Federal  
12   agencies, determines to be appropriate areas to target).

13     (b) **GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES.**—Not later than 120  
14   days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director  
15   shall issue guidance to agencies regarding—

16          (1) identifying the scope of programs subject to  
17   increased targeted investment described in sub-  
18   section (a);

19          (2) identifying the manner and share of tar-  
20   geted investment described in subsection (a); and

21          (3) outlining measures to track increased in-  
22   vestment in areas of persistent poverty and other  
23   areas with high and persistent poverty over time.

24     (c) **MINIMUM INVESTMENT AMOUNT.**—In developing  
25   the guidance and measures under subsection (a), the Di-  
26   rector shall include a minimum goal that Federal invest-

1 ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty or other  
2 areas with high and persistent poverty be in an amount  
3 that is greater than the amount that is proportional to  
4 the population of such areas in the United States relative  
5 to the population of the United States as a whole.

6 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall  
7 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an an-  
8 nual report that includes—

9 (1) a list of the programs, by agency, that are  
10 included in the effort to increase the share of Fed-  
11 eral investments targeted to areas of persistent pov-  
12 erty and other areas with high and persistent pov-  
13 erty; and

14 (2) for each program listed under paragraph  
15 (1)—

16 (A) the amount of funds that were directed  
17 under the program toward an area of persistent  
18 poverty or other area with high and persistent  
19 poverty during the previous fiscal year;

20 (B) the percentage change from the fiscal  
21 year before the previous fiscal year in the  
22 amount of funds that were directed under the  
23 program toward an area of persistent poverty  
24 or other area with high and persistent poverty;  
25 and

1                                   (C) to the extent practicable, an assess-  
2                                   ment of the economic impact of the program,  
3                                   including data on impacted individuals,  
4                                   disaggregated by household income, race, gen-  
5                                   der, age, national origin, disability status, and  
6                                   whether the individuals live in an urban area,  
7                                   suburban area, or rural area.

8 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORTS.**

9                                   Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
10 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller Gen-  
11 eral of the United States shall report to the appropriate  
12 committees of Congress on the effectiveness of the meas-  
13 ures implemented pursuant to section 4(a), including an  
14 assessment regarding the impact of the measures on in-  
15 creasing Federal funds spent in areas of persistent poverty  
16 and other areas with high and persistent poverty.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18                                   There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year  
19 2022, \$5,000,000 for salaries and expenses (including for  
20 entering contracts with non-Federal persons) to carry out  
21 this Act.

